



## Communities For Clean Water

December 18, 2014

Bill Honker  
Division Director  
Water Quality Protection Division  
USEPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75202  
Via Electronic Mail: [honker.william@epa.gov](mailto:honker.william@epa.gov)

RE: In Support of Stormwater Petition by Amigos Bravos

Dear Mr. Honker:

Communities for Clean Water (CCW) is a network of organizations whose mission is to ensure that community waters impacted by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) are kept safe for drinking, agriculture, sacred ceremonies, and a sustainable future. Our growing network includes Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS), Amigos Bravos, Honor Our Pueblo Existence (HOPE), the New Mexico Acequia Association, Partnership for Earth Spirituality, and Tewa Women United. CCW brings together the vast expertise and commitment of widely respected and well-tested advocacy groups from culturally diverse backgrounds. Collectively CCW represents the only community-based coalition in Northern New Mexico that has been monitoring and advocating for better public water policy to address the toxic threats from LANL. As the sacred homeland of the Pueblo Peoples it is vitally important that clean water be protected on the Pajarito Plateau. We write today to give our support to the petition submitted on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by Amigos Bravos entitled "A Petition by Amigos Bravos for a Determination that Storm Water Discharges in Los Alamos County Contribute to Water Quality Standards Violations and Require a Clean Water Act Permit" (Petition).

CCW has been working as a coalition to address contaminated stormwater runoff from LANL and Los Alamos County since 2006. While we have been encouraged by some progress under the Individual Industrial Stormwater Permit (IP) to address contaminated stormwater runoff, we are concerned by the overwhelming data and evidence that indicates that storm water contamination from urban sources on the Pajarito Plateau is contributing to violations of water quality standards. As an industrial permit the IP does not cover urban sources, as a result there is a gap in permit coverage. It is the responsibility of EPA to ensure that the waters of the Pajarito Plateau and the Rio Grande are protected, therefore we urge you to grant the Petition and issue a protective individual MS4 stormwater permit jointly to LANL and Los Alamos County. In addition, given the

nature of the pollution and the extensive monitoring infrastructure already in place, CCW calls on EPA to include rigorous monitoring and treatment requirements in any permit issued.

Sincerely,

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